Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (new). A method for generating a true random number, which comprises:

measuring a stochastically distributed duration of an electrical charge exchange process; and

generating the true random number based on the duration of the stochastically distributed electrical charge exchange process.

Claim 16 (new). The method according to claim 15, wherein the charge exchange process includes a charge exchange in at least one memory cell.

Claim 17 (new). The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one memory cell is a memory cell of an EEPROM.

Claim 18 (new). The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one memory cell is a FLASH memory cell.

Claim 19 (new). The method according to claim 15, which comprises performing the charge exchange process with a charge pump.

Claim 20 (new). The method according to claim 15, wherein the measuring step comprises recording the stochastic duration of the charge exchange process with a counter.

Claim 21 (new). The method according to claim 15, which comprises implementing the method with an embedded system.

Claim 22 (new). The method according to claim 21, which comprises implementing the method with an engine control system of a motor vehicle.

Claim 23 (new). An apparatus for generating a true random number, which comprises a device for generating the true random number on the basis of a stochastically distributed duration of an electrical charge exchange process.

Claim 24 (new). The apparatus according to claim 23, which comprises at least one memory cell undergoing an electrical charge reversal in order to generate the random number.

Claim 25 (new). The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said at least one memory cell is a memory cell of an EEPROM.

Claim 26 (new). The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said at least one memory cell is a FLASH memory cell.

Claim 27 (new). The apparatus according to claim 23, which comprises a charge pump for performing the charge exchange process.

Claim 28 (new). The apparatus according to claim 23, which comprises a counter for recording the stochastically distributed duration of the charge exchange process.

Claim 29 (new). The apparatus according to claim 23 configured as an embedded system.

Claim 30 (new). The apparatus according to claim 23 configured in an engine control system of a motor vehicle.